

**CSAP
Little Rock, Arkansas
May, 2007**

BRAGS

MOANS

<p>ALASKA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AKSHA received a \$6,000 ASHA grant to facilitate us with our website; a state advisory group to educate the public and to provide research statistics on shortages in the field in Alaska. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allied Health Professional is being audited by Medicaid and penalized on things that have been unclear and inconsistent re: paperwork and procedures.
<p>ARIZONA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed new licensure to update statutes to include the Audiology doctoral degree as the entry level requirement. Master's prepared practioners are grandfathered. • CEUs were increased to 10 per year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A shortage of SLP's in school settings and medical settings.
<p>ARKANSAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSAP came to Arkansas. • Donald Harington as an Honorary Ambassador for ArkSHA. • Having Randy on the CSAP program. • Meeting with Doug Eaton and being asked to write statement for school facilities manual. • Activities of Marketing/Recruitment Comm. members in celebration of 'May is Better Hearing & Speech Month. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The legislation to fund our school-based SLP stipend was not passed in the legislature.
<p>CALIFORNIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSHA has actively supported legislation, including: a Senate Concurrent Resolution and an Assembly Bill regarding SLP shortages. There are 300 bills currently that affect CSHA members. • We had 1700+ members at our annual convention in March. Next year we meet in Monterey. • There is a new Commissioner on the board. Gary Montooth is our first Commissioner on Organizational Advancement and Outreach. • We have two students and two SLPAs on our board. • We cosponsored dozens of CE workshops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC-03. Enough said.

**CSAP
Little Rock, Arkansas
May, 2007**

BRAGS

MOANS

BRAGS	MOANS
<p>FLORIDA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At convention: recruited 28 new members, had 157 members attend the state assoc. party, had 400 Fl. SLP's visit the booth, and had 18 exhibitors commit to our state convention (they were not planning to attend)! • Working with ASHA to share and disseminate information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No ASHA data base of past state activities. • No detailed list of ASHA perks. • Poor attendance at pre and post convention workshops.
<p>GEORGIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgia had a banner legislative session, with 92407 receiving full payment for Medicaid reimbursement. • A new legislative intent law with a standing body to follow up that legislation is followed by state agencies. • A new bill jointly done with PT and OT defining our roles within service delivery. • We also passed that signing will be accepted as a foreign language requirement. • Our convention was a success with roughly 500 attending. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The usual complaint of seeking volunteerism persists.
<p>IDAHO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We were selected by ASHA to receive a grant to help with support for activities to improve the issues with personnel shortages. The school board association of Idaho is proposing to reduce standards to deal with the shortage so the Idaho Speech and Hearing Association is fighting hard to keep a master level degree!! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We had to cancel a regional event because only 4 members pre-registered and our membership is slightly down from last year. ☹
<p>KANSAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After working with Susan Karr from ASHA to initiate a workload model with a district in KS, the assistant special education director from that district has continued to lead our KSHA members by chairing the Workload/Caseload Taskforce Committee and providing a spring workshop to over 80 participants. A number of the participants were students from Fort Hays State University's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thankful not to have any real Moan's to share.

CSAP
Little Rock, Arkansas
May, 2007

BRAGS

MOANS

<p>KANSAS continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicative Disorders & Sciences program. Our Committee Chair has also spoken to Special Education Director's Conference and consulted with individual districts about this issue on behalf of KSHA.• KS has a new State Director of Special Education. The Executive Board invited her to come to one of our meetings. The dialogue that followed opened the communication lines about a number of issues that KSHA members will be experiencing. It also set the stage for future collaboration opportunities between KSHA and the State Special Education Department.• Our Executive Director was honored this year for 20 years of service. We hope she never retires.• Not only was our Legislative Day very successful, KSHA has supported with testimony two bills. One of the bills provides insurance benefits for hearing aid users. We are developing political partnerships with other organizations to pass this bill. The ground work is being laid and next session we're going to work to get it passed.• It's time to address our Strategic Plan.	
<p>KENTUCKY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hired new Executive Director with extensive hotel and convention experience, able to no longer need convention planner at \$14,000 per year.• Biggest convention yet: 1500 participants, profit of \$120,000 (\$20K more than 2006).• Online registration was flawless.• Instituted "KSHA News You Can Use" email blasts.• Converting to electronic Newsletter. Only 80 hard copies actually requested. Sent 1500 in the past.• Cut telephone bill by 2/3 as well as other office expenses.• New design for website www.kysha.org• 40 Executive Council members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Getting members to use online registration (50% refused). Will be using incentives this year.• Maintaining website.

**CSAP
Little Rock, Arkansas
May, 2007**

BRAGS

MOANS

<p>LOUISIANA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased student participation at annual convention due to a stronger student track (quiz bowl, student poster session). • At least three ASHA initiative grants received in the past 2 years. • LSHA website is well maintained. • Number of CEU events LSHA sponsors each year has increased. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to get individuals across the state to contribute to LSHA newsletter; run for board positions and participate in legislative activities.
<p>MARYLAND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passage of the comprehensive licensure bill. • STAR grant approval for legislative advocacy focused on Universal Healthcare Insurance reform. • Upgrade of website and embracing technological advances that the board uses to be more efficient. • Financially solvent but anticipating increased membership and attendance at CEU events secondary to comprehensive licensure law. • Focus of upcoming legislative actions to include healthcare reforms. • Reappointment of SEAL. • Ten years of relationships with 3 different governors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trying to mend the broken relationships with MAA and MSDE. • Lack of new members and volunteers within the organization.
<p>MASSACHUSETTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We held a strategic planning retreat in July 2006 to coordinate goals for all committees; this was successful in setting the tone for all of 2007. • Rolled out our new, updated and expanded website, www.mshahearsay.org. This has allowed us to do on-line, rolling membership, and offer more features. • Unveiled our new employment marketplace, powered by Job Target. • Coordinated a successful conference with National CEU on students with ELL • Started the new year with a nearly full board, including many new members. • Volunteerism is up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The licensure challenge is back! We are working hard to defeat this bill. • Caseload issues are still a challenge. • Reimbursement challenges with Medicaid.

**CSAP
Little Rock, Arkansas
May, 2007**

BRAGS

MOANS

<p>MASSACHUSETTS continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Affairs Committee is working on Entrance and Exit Criteria.• Newly energized private practice committee.• Planning is in full swing for CSAP and ASHA in Boston in November.• Rehired our lobbyists.	
<p>MICHIGAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have hired a terrific new lobbyist who is competently directing us in educating our members, securing backing for licensure legislation (everyone keep your fingers crossed for us) and providing us with grass roots instruction to be a stronger group.• Our Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation celebrated its 1st birthday in March with a giant cake and candles! We were lead in song by Liz Stevens who had the vision to initiate the Foundation. We were able to garner some monies through contributions made at the Annual Conference and plan more fundraisers for filling these coffers.• A first for us was the Leadership Conference held at the beginning of the March Conference. Attendees were selected from names nominated through universities and public and private work venues. They included newly or about ready to graduate students and those with less than 5 years of work experiences. Alex Johnson, past president of ASHA, was a presenter along with several other distinguished leaders from Michigan. Hats off to Heather Balog (WSU) and her committee for a fabulous event!• Our Workforce Committee continues to function under the direction of Sandy Glista and Donna Oas (WMU) through an ASHA Focus Initiation grant. One important outcome is the communication this group has fostered with persons from the MDE. Many positive outcomes are yet in the works.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good or bad, the Michigan Department of Education is opening up the special education rules and regulations for Speech/Language Impaired and is looking at including language for the use of SLPAs. We are certainly keeping our eyes on this!

**CSAP
Little Rock, Arkansas
May, 2007**

BRAGS

MOANS

<p>MICHIGAN continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of our VP positions are now filled and each committee is reviewing a portion of the strategic plan in preparation for updating it. In addition, we have formed a governance committee to review the by-laws of the organization in order to clarify our roles and function and to become a more effective body to serve our membership. • And, lastly, we continue to refine our website, as we strive to provide our membership with an efficient tool of communication. 	
<p>MISSISSIPPI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference continues to grow (500 memberships with 750 attending). • Expanding continuing education to include topic focused seminars. • Inclusion of SLPs on statewide autism task force. • Introduced legislation for mandatory insurance coverage of Hearing Aid and Rehab Services. • Established an exploratory committee for independent licensure board. • Larger volunteer pool for committees. • Successful in achieving public awareness of MSHA via radio, health fair exhibits. • ASHA grant for reimbursement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsuccessful in lobbying for changes in Medicaid. • Lack of volunteers willing to serve on EB.
<p>MISSOURI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful Convention (Young Professionals Caucus; Quest for the Cup competition between universities; minority student leadership program; & a keynote luncheon speech by Mike McKinley). • We have a full slate of new officers for next year. • We are undergoing two days of strategic planning to look at the future and re-organizing a bit. • Our Audiology Licensure Bill PASSED!!! Audiologists in our state who want to dispense hearing aids no longer apply for a license from the Hearing Instrument Specialists. • We continue a great relationship with our management firm, (Craven). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our current president is moving out of state. • Our state still has an Implementer model in the department of Elementary and Secondary Education which allows anyone with a bachelor's degree in anything to practice in the schools under the supervision of an SLP.

**CSAP
Little Rock, Arkansas
May, 2007**

BRAGS

MOANS

MONTANA

- After 18 years without a Speech Language Pathology program the re-establishment of the program was approved by the Board of Regents in January.
- The Senate added \$700,000 (specifically as start up fund for the program) to the state general budget bill. It needs to pass the House and be signed by the Governor.
- The Licensure Board is re-writing and clarifying the aide portion of the rules governing licensure of SLP's and Aud's. It should be ready by September.
- MSHA has added two members "at-large" to the board to serve one year terms as a way to build a pool of potential leaders for the association.

- There are more SLP jobs in Montana than people to fill them.
- Our first Legislative day was unsuccessful. Only 5 senators made the effort to meet with us. But we know now what to do for next time.

NEBRASKA

- We are about to pass our legislative bill which contains critical updates to the scopes of practice for speech-language pathology and audiology and our licensure law. (dysphagia, a more comprehensive treatment modalities listing, new requirements for aids/assistants, cerumen management, implantable devices).

- We continue to try and expand our grassroots network among the membership to facilitate our strategic planning goals relating to universal licensure, eliminating the dual licensure requirement for audiologists (one to practice and one to dispense) salary supplements, and caseload/workload issues, as well as raising public awareness of our professions.
- We are also getting ready to tackle some Medicaid reimbursement issues related to services for children (i.e. denying payment for certain codes and classifying them as educational diagnosis codes - 315.32 mixed receptive expressive language disorder, 315.39 Articulation Disorder, and 784.60 Symbolic Dysfunction).

**CSAP
Little Rock, Arkansas
May, 2007**

BRAGS

MOANS

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- We have 5 vacancies on our executive board as of July 1, 2007. 4 out of 5 have been filled already!
- We had a radio campaign on New Hampshire Public Radio and 4 other radio stations in NH, promoting ASHA's website during May is Better Speech & Hearing Month.
- At our spring conference, we had our first ever parent forum. Parents were able to attend 1-day conference for \$20; attend a session on writing measurable IEPs; and attend an informal Q/A session with our board members.

- We still have an alternative certification for a Speech/Language Specialist, as offered by the Dept. of Education. This position requires little experience in the field of speech/language pathology.
- Membership is stagnant, and largely inactive.

NEW JERSEY

- We hired a dynamic new Association Manager who is business savvy, organized and great communication skills.
- We had a successful convention which included an interactive business meeting (round table discussion) for our members; pizza lunch for our students; & free wine/cheese during exhibitor hours. We had approx. 1000 attendees & broke a record of 100 students attending the convention.
- We hired a new liaison for our convention that increased communication for our convention via "Magnet Mails".
- We continue to update our web site & use "Magnet Mails" as "breaking news" to inform our members re: conventions, conferences, & legislative activities.
- Our PR person contacted a number of various newspapers and television stations to discuss personnel shortages, NJSBA Award Recipients, and speech-language issues in conjunction with Better Hearing and Speech Month. We were interviewed by CNN Headlines in our local area for speech, language, and hearing issues.
- We are completing a HealthCare Survey which has shown that we have 25% vacant positions in the hospitals that responded to the survey.

- We had to deal with dismissing a volunteer who was put in charge of the Continuing Education program due to lack of communication skills.
- We had several personnel issues in our management association office. New employees had to be brought up to speed on the association activities.

CSAP
Little Rock, Arkansas
May, 2007

BRAGS

MOANS

NEW YORK

- We lost our much loved executive director to another association who could pay him more money –but hired a smart, energetic, creative lady with marketing skills to address chronic problems of dwindling membership, shrinking revenue & members who ask “What does NYSSLHA do for me.”
- In a year that we are facing our biggest budget crunch ever, our biggest revenue raiser, the annual convention, was to be held in Buffalo. Buffalo conventions traditionally have lower than average
- registration. Downstate members, who make up the majority of our membership, don’t like to go to Western NY. Even the upstate members tend not to come! So, we feared that, in spite of a stellar program and nationally renowned speakers, we would actually lose money on this convention. As predicted, convention registration was below budget, but not *as* below budget as we had feared. The convention program was a big hit with members. The new format was a huge success. Everyone loved the speakers, topics, hotel, even the food. The convention had a great feeling of camaraderie that probably would not have happened had we been in a bigger venue with a larger turn out. Members were very happy and I’m sure will spread the word. A great prelude to next year’s convention in Saratoga. And finally, we didn’t lose money; we somehow managed to clear about \$40,000 after all.
- We have several plans in place to address low membership: We formed a committee to formulate a plan to meet the needs of professionals in NYS & boost membership; We have strengthened ties with regional associations that will draw members into NYSSLHA; We have significantly increased communication from NYSSLHA to members; and we are planning a Fall conference (DOWNSTATE this time!) for our school based SLPs.
- We received a grant from ASHA to help support our Highest Qualified Provider initiatives in NY.

- None to report

CSAP
Little Rock, Arkansas
May, 2007

BRAGS

MOANS

<p>NEW YORK continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Held a very successful Legislative Hearing Screening day in Albany in celebration of Better Hearing & Speech Month. We had the opportunity to meet and talk with key legislators and their aides in a different venue than usual.• Successfully lobbied for coverage of digital hearing aids by Medicaid & rejection of a plan to impose fees on providers of early intervention services.	
<p>NORTH CAROLINA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Over 700 registrants at our spring convention in March when only a little over 500 were expected.• Subsequent increase in membership.• President and President- elect visiting NSSHLA programs around the state. <p>See our website for more information: www.ncshla.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working within our Professional Affairs Committee to advocate to ASHA about how timed codes can hurt the state because of our Medicaid provider status.• We need to show in our web information and in our literature how we advocate for those with communication disorders.
<p>OHIO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sponsored a wonderful state convention in March with over 1,200 in attendance. We were pleased to offer 13 short courses with speakers from all over the country and 45 mini-seminars.• Ohio received a 5 million dollar grant from the state for the development of new programming in response to the SLPA issue.• Received a \$2000 grant from ASHA for the health plan reimbursement advocacy project – OSLHA produced a video designed to promote awareness of the value of providing comprehensive coverage for services for communication disorders.• Sponsored another successful legislative breakfast in conjunction with the OSHGAC at the State House in Columbus.• Ohio House passed House Bill 119 providing for the creation of a Medicaid Buy-In program aimed at allowing the disabled to continue their coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OSLHA is currently seeking assistance from its members, parents and professionals regarding revising the therapy caps for SLP's in the schools.

CSAP
Little Rock, Arkansas
May, 2007

BRAGS

MOANS

OHIO

After finding work and for funding for early childhood learning programs and Medicaid eligibility expansions for children.

- Student involvement continues to grow – strong representation at the annual convention, legislative breakfast and legislative council meeting. First annual statewide NSSLHA conference was organized and attended by over 150 students in Oxford, Ohio – student was awarded an OSLHA award of appreciation at the annual convention.

OKLAHOMA

- Our organization completed strategic planning & identified a new mission statement. During strategic planning we identified that we would like to increase membership by providing more benefits with a specific focus on technology.
- We added an online Web Forum for members & now have the capability to e-mail members of our organization. We organizing a database with more complete membership information & history on all members.
- We completed a member survey & found that 89% of members are satisfied or extremely satisfied with our organization.
- We have our annual fall conference planned in September with speakers Roberta Elman, Judith Kuster, and David Hammer.
- In January of this year, all full-time certified SLPs in the public schools received a five thousand dollar bonus. A ceremony was held at the state capitol. This was quite a triumph for SLPs who have been fighting for this recognition for many years. The state advocacy group is continuing to work on getting a similar bonus for part-time certified personnel. This group is also working on developing policies with the state department of education to insure that the highest qualified provider is the individual providing services in all school districts in Oklahoma.

- Our organization lost our central office service provider in December unexpectedly. The process to develop requests for proposals and get proposals has been much more difficult than we anticipated. We have had to ban together to take care of many small tasks to keep the basics of the organization running. The good news is that we have many good volunteers. We look forward to having a new central office this time next year.

**CSAP
Little Rock, Arkansas
May, 2007**

BRAGS

MOANS

OREGON	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued growth in membership. • Updated, dynamic association website. Recently hired a webmaster. • Healthy Budget. • Conference growth and attraction by members/non members in state. • Great, hardworking, passionate board members. • Recipient of ASHA Focused Initiative Grants to address recruitment and retention. • Good communication, dialogue with our state licensing agency. • Strong, state law governing certification of SLPAs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensure threats & reduction of qualifications by our teacher licensing agency. • OT- encroachment related to dysphagia evaluation and treatment. • Need to spearhead a way for SLPs to gain continuing education in the area of supervision (SLPAs, EA, etc). This is not a skill taught in graduation programs (this is a national issue). • Engaging more members in ADVOCACY- for the profession, worksite, and scope of practice.
RHODE ISLAND	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rhode Island Speech-Language Hearing Association responded with lobbying action, including appeals to the governor by the executive board, support from ASHA for members to lobby state legislators, testimony from members before the State Senate Finance Committee, and the hiring of a lobbyist to work on our behalf in the State House. RISHA has gratefully received ongoing support from re-elected State Senator Hanna M. Gallo, M.S., CCC-SLP, RISHA and ASHA member, over this legislative matter. Additionally, the RISHA Schools Committee seized this opportunity by running a forum to address concerns of school-based SLPs. • In more encouraging news, the family of the late Patricia M. Stephens, M.S., CCC-SLP, RISHA and ASHA member, held a birthday event which raised over \$2000 for the fund that annually awards a graduate school scholarship in her memory; at the family's request, RISHA is investigating the feasibility of making the scholarship fund a separate and self-sustaining entity which can grow and further support studies in our field. Additionally, RISHA is planning a fall conference about autism. • Revamped website at www.risha.info 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What state government gives it can take away...After speech-language pathologists in Rhode Island public schools won a hard-fought annual salary supplement of \$1,750 last year, lame duck Governor Donald L. Carcieri decided to ignore the new law by removing the supplement from the state budget earlier this year. Moreover, after nine school districts started paying SLPs the new salary supplements in varying amounts, the state education department advised <i>all</i> districts to stop issuing these supplements as it would not reimburse these districts—despite a law to the contrary. Several districts started reclaiming the funds from SLPs out of their paychecks; however, two districts deserve praise for supporting SLPs by letting them keep their rightful supplements: <i>Jamestown</i> and <i>West Warwick</i>.

**CSAP
Little Rock, Arkansas
May, 2007**

BRAGS

MOANS

SOUTH CAROLINA	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our foundation awarded its first scholarships this year! • We just topped 1,000 members for the first time in our history. • Our 50th anniversary is in February. • Our Legislative Day last month was attended by over 160 legislators and staffers. • Our new lobbyist helped secure Medicaid funding changes resulting in reimbursement rates changing from \$40/hour to \$120/hour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only a handful of our members are audiologists. • Our school salary supplement bill, despite wide support in the senate, has been sidelined by one senator.
<p>SOUTH DAKOTA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record convention attendance. • Didn't have to twist anyone's arms to volunteer for president, treasurer, VP of Audiology, SEALS, MICS or STARS!!!! • Trying something new -- committees to work on projects, instead of the board doing EVERYTHING and had some volunteers (and not all of them past board members)! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost money on convention or just broke even. • Although the state says it is not issuing provisional certificates, we know of two non-SLPs working as SLPs!!! • Legislature continues to refuse changing its education funding formula, so there is little chance of getting additional money for salary supplements.
<p>TENNESSEE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation was passed in April 2007 changing the state statute stating that the Au.D. will be the minimal degree credential for audiologists beginning January, 2008. • Legislation was passed in May 2007 changing the state statute stating that Speech-Language Pathologists may use endoscopy as part of their scope-of-practice with clients with dysphagia, dysphonia, and resonance disorders. • Upgrading website to include more information for members and the consumer. • Use of an ASHA grant continues to be used to provide specific workshops for school-based clinicians concerning changes in state regulations. • Have instituted a special listserv for school-based clinicians on the website to assist in communicating with other clinicians across the state. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty with member volunteerism.

**CSAP
Little Rock, Arkansas
May, 2007**

BRAGS

MOANS

<p>TEXAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful 51st convention. • 700 new members thanks to our new State Office campaign. • A FULL slate of candidates for 3 offices. • ASHA grant to help with public school initiatives • Preparation of grant proposal to state education agency for help in developing a consortium distance learning program. • Legislation pending: Loan Repayment, bill to assure SLPs receive any raises awarded to teachers. • Successful Legislation Day in Austin in February. • In the process of developing a plan to meet private practice issues (insurance, education, advocacy). • Cherry on ASHA Public School Shortage Cadre • ASHA CE online registry up and running as a member benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looks like loan repayment bill will not go anywhere this year. • Dyslexia Bill????? • Not enough time in the day/week/year to get it all done!!
<p>VIRGINIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record number of attendees (over 600) at the 2007 Spring Conference. • All handouts for Spring Conference available on-line 2 weeks before and after conference. • All handouts of Spring Conference available on a CD which was for sale at the conference and could be ordered at the conference. • Redesigned website. • Continue with our state lobbying efforts for caseload reduction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLP shortage. • Recruiting new SLPs.
<p>WASHINGTON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteerism has increased from 29 to 60 volunteers (We have filled 7 of our 8 committees; developed a reporting/supporting structure; and have strong work groups for our 2007 and 2008 Fall conventions). • WSHA Strategic Plan – initiated March, 2006; revised March, 2007 due to significant accomplishments in 2007. A strong strategic tool! • Membership – steady, 10 members short from this time last year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLP shortages: Legislation – Years of Service Bill: our hope was that 5 years of non-school experience would be recognized; Legislation – Retire/Rehire Bill has been signed into law which will have strict guidelines on hiring “retired” employees. Many retired SLP’s assist during the shortages. • Private Practice closure due to reimbursement.

**CSAP
Little Rock, Arkansas
May, 2007**

BRAGS

MOANS

<p>WASHINGTON continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuing to build a strong reserve fund to provide a stable financial foundation and provide new opportunities for member services & support. Nearly a full year of operating expenses in fund.• Communiqué' publication is top-notch and includes useful information regarding both national and state issues.• Legislation: Years of Service Bill: recognize up to 2 years of non-school experience.• SLPA licensure is in the sunrise with the goal to present as a bill in the 2008 legislative session.	
<p>WEST VIRGINIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 2006, the WV legislature passed a salary supplement bill.• We were recently awarded a grant through ASHA to address retention/recruitment of school based SLPs. Our Association and the State Department of Education has promised additional funding to fill the gap.• We have a newly redesigned website. Yahoo groups are used as forums and we utilize a listserv to contact all members when necessary.• We have had record attendance at our past two spring conventions and this is in addition to offering two fall conferences each year.• Our foundation has awarded two \$1000.00 scholarships for the past three years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volunteers to serve in elected offices and committee members continue to be an issue.